

DENNLER et al. -- Serial No.: 09/601,534

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please substitute the following amended claims for corresponding claims previously presented. A copy of the amended claims showing current revisions is attached.

D
B2

1. (Amended) A method for screening therapeutic agents for use in combating fibrotic disorders, abnormal wound healing, abnormal bone formation, cancer development, haematopoiesis, neuroprotection and immune and inflammatory disorders where associated with gene regulation by one or more Smad proteins selected from the group consisting of Smad2 spliced in exon 3, Smad3 and Smad4 and TGF β or activin, said method comprising detecting or assaying the extent or result of transcriptional activity or binding in the presence of said agent between a Smad protein or a DNA binding fragment thereof and a double strand oligonucleotide comprising the sequence 5' WXYCAGACZ 3' or a functional equivalent thereof, wherein in said nucleotide sequence W represents A or G, X represents G or T, Y represents C, A, G or T and Z represents A or C.

Cancel claim 5 without prejudice.

DENNLER et al. -- Serial No.: 09/601,534

D²
B3

6. (Amended) A kit for screening agents for combating fibrotic disorders, abnormal wound healing, abnormal bone formation, cancer development, haematopoiesis, neuroprotection and immune and inflammatory disorders where associated with gene regulation by one or more Smad proteins selected from the group consisting of Smad2 spliced in exon 3, Smad3 and Smad4 and TGF β or activin, said kit comprising:.

- a Smad protein
- TGF β or activin
- a double strand DNA molecule comprising the sequence 5' WXYCAGACZ 3' or a functional equivalent thereof, wherein in said nucleotide sequence W represents A or G, X represents G or T, Y represents C, A or G and Z represents A or C.

REMARKS

Reconsideration of this application and entry of the foregoing amendments are respectfully requested.

The specification has been amended to make reference to the PCT from which this case derives. As regards the priority document, a certified copy will have been submitted during the international phase and no further copy should be required.